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State of Illinois  
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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# Illinois Mandatory Safety Education Programs



# Boating

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## Safety Education



### • What Is It?

The Illinois Boating Education Course consists of a minimum eight hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics of boating safety, equipment and requirements, navigation, motorboat registration and titling, emergency measures and the state boating regulations.

Persons 12 and over completing the minimum 8 hours of instruction and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

### • Who Must Take The Course?

On January 1, 1978, Illinois law was passed that requires persons at least twelve years of age and less than eighteen years of age may only operate a motorboat if:

- they have in possession a valid Boating Education Certificate of Competency issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Section.
- or they are accompanied on the motorboat and under direct control of a parent or a guardian, or a person at least eighteen years of age designated by a parent or guardian.

### • Where Are Courses Available?

Many civic organizations, park districts, schools, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, along with other interest groups sponsor classes throughout the state. An on-line course is now available at [boat-ed.com](http://boat-ed.com).

### • Why Take This Course?

Throughout the year, many people operate motor-driven watercraft on the Illinois waters; often some for the first time. So, we encourage people of all ages - both novice and experienced - to take the course. Each of us has the responsibility to keep this lifetime leisure activity free from tragedy and personal loss to ourselves and our fellow boaters. The Illinois Boating Education Course is offered with these objectives in mind.

In addition, some insurance companies offer a reduced rate for receiving your certification.

# Hunter

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## Safety Education



- **What Is It?**

The Illinois Hunter Education Program consists of a minimum ten hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics of hunter responsibility, wildlife conservation and identification, firearms and ammunition, field safety, wildlife management, first aid, archery, muzzleloading, and state regulations.

Persons completing the minimum 10 hours of instruction and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

- **Who Must Take The Course?**

On January 1, 1996, Illinois law was passed that requires anyone born on or after January 1, 1980 may not be issued a hunting license unless:

- they present a valid Hunter Education Certificate of Competency issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Section.
- or they present evidence he or she has held a hunting license issued by the State of Illinois or another state in a prior year.

- **Where Are Courses Available?**

Courses are sponsored by various conservation clubs, public service and outdoor organizations, park districts, schools and other interest groups throughout the state.

- **Why Take This Course?**

Many states are now requiring adult hunters to furnish evidence of having completed a Hunter Education Course prior to issuance of a non-resident license. The shooting sports, both hunting and target, are lifetime recreational activities enjoyed by millions of Americans. The Illinois Hunter Safety Education Program was designed to improve safety and to develop an attitude of respect for wildlife and the environment.



# Snowmobiling

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## Safety Education



### • What Is It?

The Illinois Snowmobile Education Course consists of a minimum eight hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics in maintenance and repair of snowmobiles, proper and safe operation, history of snowmobiling, first aid, protection of the environment and the state regulations.

Persons 12 and over completing the minimum 8 hours of instruction and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

### • Who Must Take The Course?

On October 2, 1975, Illinois law was passed that requires persons at least twelve years of age and less than sixteen years of age may operate a snowmobile only if:

- they have in possession a valid Snowmobile Safety Education Certificate of Competency issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Section,
- or they are accompanied on the snowmobile by a parent or guardian or person at least sixteen years of age designated by a parent or guardian.

### • Where Are Courses Available?

Courses are sponsored by various snowmobile clubs, public service organizations, park districts, schools and other interest groups throughout the state.

### • Why Take This Course?

Illinois winters are very unpredictable and when we receive enough snow for snowmobiling, everyone is anxious to ride. Courses should be taken before the snow arrives. Besides teaching basic safety principles, the course attempts to develop the proper attitude of respect for the student's fellow person and for the environment. The development of this respect and correct safety procedures are essential if snowmobiling is to continue to grow and give hours of enjoyment as a leisure time recreational activity in Illinois.

# Trapping

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## Safety Education



### • What Is It?

The Illinois Trapper Education Course consists of a minimum eight hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics in equipment and trapping techniques, trap and pelt preparation, wildlife and furbearer management, reporting requirements, trapper ethics, game identification and state regulations.

Persons completing the minimum 8 hours of instruction and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

### • Who Must Take The Course?

On January 1, 1985, Illinois law was passed requiring that no person under eighteen years of age may be issued a trapping license unless:

- they present a valid Trapper Education Certificate of Competency issued by the Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Section

- or they present evidence he or she has held a trapping license issued by the State of Illinois or another state in a prior year.

### • Where Are Courses Available?

Courses are sponsored by various conservation clubs, park districts, public service organizations and other interest groups throughout the state.

### • Why Take This Course?

This course is designed to teach new or inexperienced trappers the most ethical and humane procedures for trapping Illinois furbearers. Conservationists, wildlife managers, and others who believe in protecting and enhancing wildlife, recognize trapping as one of the most suitable means of harvesting furbearers and controlling predators when it is conducted by responsible trappers. The course will provide a solid beginning to your trapping education - an education that will continue every day you are on your trapline.

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- **Safety Education Is For Everyone**

The four Mandatory Safety Education Programs, boating, hunting, trapping and snowmobiling, are primarily designed to train young people between the ages of twelve and eighteen. However we encourage persons of all ages to participate in the programs.

All Mandatory Safety Education classes require minimum hours of instruction by law. The primary objectives of the Safety Education Programs are to teach USER RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT AND SAFETY.

- **Who Teaches the Safety Education Courses?**

State certified volunteer instructors throughout the state spend hours teaching boating, hunter, trapper, and snowmobile safety education classes. The volunteer instructor staff is made up of men and women who donate thousands of hours of their personal time offering safety courses to many communities. These dedicated individuals form the backbone of the Safety Education Programs.

- **What Should You Bring to a Safety Education Course?**

Unless specifically directed by the instructor or announced publically, the only items you will need to bring are a pencil and a note pad. Manuals and handouts are provided free by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

- **General Information**

- Persons of all ages are encouraged to participate in Safety Education Classes.

- Classes are open to the public and federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap.

- It is the policy of IDNR that youth under the age of (10) must be accompanied to and during the safety education courses by an adult or guardian at least sixteen years of age.

Mere attendance of this safety education training and taking a written test will not guarantee the passing of this course. Multiple criteria such as mental and physical acuity, the ability to demonstrate and recognize safe procedures, attitude and the maturity level of each individual student will be a factor assessed by the instructors in the final certification process.



• For information on Safety Education classes in your area, contact the Safety Education Section Springfield Office, the nearest Natural Resource Region Office or our webpage at <http://dnr.state.il.us/safety>



### Northern Region

2317 E. Lincolnway, Suite A  
Sterling, IL 61081  
(815) 625-2968

### Central Region

4521 Alton Commerce Parkway  
Alton, Illinois, 62002  
(618) 462-1181

### Southern Region

11731 State Highway 37  
Benton, IL 62812  
(618) 435-8138



Illinois Department of  
Natural Resources  
Safety Education Section  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271  
**1-800-832-2599**



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Good law enforcement is everyone's responsibility. Recreationalists are urged to report violations that they observe to any conservation police officer or to the nearest regional Illinois Department of Natural Resources office.



## Target Illinois

# POACHERS

Call Toll-Free

# 1-877-2DNR-LAW

1-877-236-7529



The Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, DNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175.

This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance.

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